

Message Text

SECRET

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ORIGIN EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00 INR-07

NSAE-00 DODE-00 L-03 OMB-01 SAM-01 MC-02 ACDA-07

IGA-02 TRSE-00 /059 R

DRAFTED BY EA/TB:RASMIH:MGH

APPROVED BY EA: AWHUMMEL

EA/TB:GBROBERTS

DOD/ISA:MABRAMOWITZ

PM/ISP:CCFLOWERREE

PM/SAS:JNOTARGIACOMO

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P 262017Z JUL 76

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK PRIORITY

S E C R E T STATE 184608

FOR AMBASSADOR FROM HUMMEL

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MMOL, MILI, PFOR, TH, US

SUBJECT: U.S. RESIDUAL ACTIVITIES IN THAILAND -- AIT

REF: A. BANGKOK 20650, B. BANGKOK 20601

1. UNDER ORDINARY CIRCUMSTANCES WE WOULD HAVE PREFERRED THAT YOU WAIT UNTIL YOU HAD RECEIVED WASHINGTON CLEARANCE BEFORE APPROACHING THE THAI WITH A DRAFT. THIS WOULD HAVE AVOIDED THE PROBLEM WITH WHICH WE ARE NOW FACED. HOWEVER WE RECOGNIZE THE VALIDITY OF YOUR FEAR THAT IF WE DID NOT GET A DRAFT ON THE TABLE FIRST, THE THAI MIGHT HAVE PRESENTED US WITH SOMETHING TOTALLY IN-DIGESTIBLE.

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2. WE AGREE THAT OUR COUNTER DRAFT TEXT (STATE 177353)

IS NOT COMPATIBLE WITH THE NEW TEXT YOU HAVE SUBMITTED
REF B. WE WILL, THEREFORE, BEGIN AGAIN THE NECESSARY
AND OFTEN TIME-CONSUMING PROCESS OF CLEARING YOUR NEW
DRAFT AROUND WASHINGTON. TO THE BEST OF OUR ABILITY,
WE WILL ATTEMPT TO KEEP THE FORMAT OF YOUR TEXT INTACT,
BUT CHANGES WILL INEVITABLY BE MADE WHICH YOU WILL THEN
HAVE TO NEGOTIATE WITH THE THAI.

3. DURING YOUR DISCUSSION WITH PHICHLAI (BANGKOK 17152),

YOU CORRECTLY PRESENTED OUR POSITION THAT THE AIT AMMUNITION
WOULD BE LEFT IN THAILAND FOR A THREE-YEAR PERIOD IF
THE THAI WOULD PURCHASE THE STOCK IN INCREMENTS. AS YOU
NOTED TO PHICHLAI AT THE TIME, THERE IS FLEXIBILITY AS TO
BOTH THE QUANTITIES TO BE PURCHASED AND THE MODALITIES
OF PAYMENT.

4. WE CONSIDER THE PURCHASE INCREMENT SCHEDULE AS SET
FORTH IN STATE 177353 TO HAVE REPRESENTED AN INITIAL
POSITION ON THE TERMS OF PURCHASE. OUR DESIRE TO PIN
THE THAI TO SOME FORMULA FOR ORDERLY PAYMENT IS BASED ON
OUR PERCEPTION THAT, DESPITE ALL THE DISCLAIMERS TO THE
CONTRARY BOTH HERE AND IN BANGKOK, THE THAI STILL HOPE
TO GET AIT FREE OF CHARGE. UPADIT'S DEMARCHE HERE IN
WASHINGTON AND THAWIT'S COMMENTS ABOUT "FRIENDSHIP
PRICES" HAVE ADDED TO OUR CONCERN THAT THE THAI MIS-
TAKENLY THINK THAT INCREMENTAL PURCHASE OVER THREE YEARS
MEANS THEY GET THE SECURITY OF AIT WHILE MAKING ONLY
TOKEN PURCHASES OF THE STOCKS. WE THUS EXPECT WE WILL
HAVE TO ASK YOU TO CONTINUE TO BARGAIN HARD ON THIS
POINT. OUR MINIMUM POSITION IS THAT THE THAI WILL HAVE
TO MAKE SOME PURCHASE WITHIN ONE YEAR AND THAT THE THREE-
YEAR PERIOD BEGAN AS OF JULY 20.

5. WE WILL DO OUR BEST TO COMPLY WITH YOUR OBSERVATIONS
ON THE ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE MAINTENANCE, ACCOUNTING,
AND SURVEILLANCE OF AIT CONSISTENT WITH THE LEGAL AND
ADMINISTRATIVE LIMITATIONS IMPOSED UPON US BY THE THAI
INSISTENCE THAT THE U.S. COMBAT MILITARY PRESENCE IN
THAILAND BE TERMINATED.

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6. WHILE WE WILL MAKE EVERY EFFORT TO INCREASE THE SPEED
OF OUR RESPONSIVENESS TO YOUR REQUESTS FOR INSTRUCTIONS,
WE BELIEVE THAT THE PASSAGE OF THE ARTIFICIAL JULY 20
DEADLINE WILL HOPEFULLY ALLOW US TO PURSUE THESE COMPLEX
AND DETAILED NEGOTIATIONS AT A CAREFUL, DELIBERATE PACE.
KISSINGER

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NNN

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